

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T USSCC GENEVA 5160

EXDIS/SCC

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: PRIVATE EXCHANGE ON SSBN DISMANTLING AND ACCUMULATION
(SCC II-005)

1. IN POST-SCC MEETING INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH
FITZGERALD, BARTOS, AND OWENS, CAPTAIN MAZERKIN GAVE THE
FOLLOWING CLARIFICATION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ON
DISMANTLING SSBNS BY CUTTING OFF THE UPPER PORTION OF
THE LAUNCH TUBES AND SUPERSTRUCTURE OVER THEM.

A. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET TERM "SHAKHTA"
MEANS LAUNCH TUBE AND IS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE US TERM
"LAUNCH-MOUNT TUBE." THE LAUNCH TUBE REFERRED TO IN BOTH
SOVIET SLBM PROPOSALS IS WELDED TO THE PRESSURE HULL.
MAZERKIN ALSO INDICATED THAT SOVIET LAUNCH TUBES DO NOT
HAVE A LINER.

B. SUPERSTRUCTURE WOULD BE REMOVED.

C. HULL CROWN PLATING ALONG WITH UPPER PORTION OF
THE MISSILE LAUNCH MOUNT TUBE INCLUDING HULL LINERS WOULD
BE REMOVED. PLATING WOULD BE CUT ABOVE WATER LINE SINCE
THIS PROCEDURE MIGHT BE DONE WHILE SUBMARINE IS WATERBORNE.

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D. NEW CROWN HULL PLATING WOULD BE RE-INSTALLED AND
NEW SUPERSTRUCTURE EMPLACED. NO MISSILE HATCHES WOULD
BE EMPLACED IN THE NEW SUPERSTRUCTURE.

E. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD TAKE UP TO SIX MONTHS AND WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE OPEN AND WOULD BE VISIBLE FROM THE AIR.

F. WHEN ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER DISMANTLING WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN OR OUT OF WATER, MAZERKIN SAID IT WOULD DEPEND ON THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISMANTLING.

2. MAZERKIN SAID THIS PROCEDURE IS AT LEAST AS EFFECTIVE AS THE US PROPOSAL FOR REMOVING THE MISSILE SECTION. HE SAID THAT SOVIET SIDE STILL WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL THREE US PROPOSALS SO THAT EITHER SIDE WOULD CHOOSE ANY ONE OF THE FIVE PRESENTLY PROPOSED.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH FITZGERALD, MAZERKIN STRESSED THAT AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF SOVIET PROCEDURE OUTLINED ABOVE, A SUBMARINE WOULD NO LONGER BE CAPABLE OF BEING A "RAKETONOSETS," I.E. "MISSILE-BEARING."

(COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THIS WOULD EXCLUDE SLCM, AS WELL AS SLBM OF ANY RANGE. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY THIS AT FUTURE MEETINGS.) HE ALSO SAID THAT SOVIET SIDE STILL SEES NO NEED FOR INCLUDING A LIMIT ON NUMBER OF SSBNS LAUNCHED BUT AWAITING SEA TRIALS.
GRAYBEAL

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